

Summary of Activities in California

September 1968-August 1969

THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION'S Committee on Continuing Medical Education has completed its 1968-69 Summary of Continuing Medical Education Activities in California. This summary should be especially useful to sponsors offering continuing medical education as it lists geographically and by field of medical interest which activities have been recently available in California. Used as a basis for future program planning in conjunction with our "clearinghouse service," which will be described later, this summary can help avert unnecessary duplication and identify important areas left uncovered. However, educational efforts should meet the needs of the physician, and this consideration should be the paramount one in such decisions. Future articles will deal with approaches to discover such physician needs.

This summary includes all continuing medical education activities in California as reported to the Committee on Continuing Medical Education for the one-year period, September 1, 1968 through August 31, 1969. There were 620 activities representing 7,703 hours of instruction offered by 139 sponsors. Activities encompass meetings and courses and specialty society meetings at which scientific sessions were reported; and for the first time the 1968-69 summary includes formal radio and television courses and grand rounds. The number of activities and instructional hours are presented by geographical location, sponsorship and specialties and selected categories.

Table 1 shows the continuing medical education activities summarized by geographical location. The California Regional Medical Programs (CRMP) area designations reflect location only, and are not to be confused with sponsorship. Some 54 percent of activities were held in two areas of the state, Area I (30.8 percent) and Area IV

(23.9 percent). Eighty-seven percent of all activities were held in Areas I, III, IV, and V. Instructional hours tended to be somewhat greater on a per activity basis in Area V than in the case of the other areas, with Area V having 23.9 percent of all hours of instruction in the state, as compared with 19 percent of all activities held. While Areas II, III, VI, VII, and VIII contain 38 percent of California's physicians, these areas had only 26 percent of all activities and only 25 percent of all hours of instruction. The smaller areas of physician population tended to have fewer activities per physician, but the activities generally contained more hours of instruction. While nearly all California Regional Medical Program areas follow county lines, the one exception, the overlapping of CRMP Areas IV and V in Los Angeles County, makes the analysis of those areas difficult as the figures on numbers of physicians are available only on a per county basis. There is, of course, accessibility to educational activities in densely populated areas near bordering CRMP area lines, such as CRMP Areas IV and V.

Meetings and courses were the most frequent modality, accounting for 71 percent of the total number of continuing medical education activities and for 75 percent of all hours of instruction. Grand Rounds accounted for 5 percent of the total number of activities and for 23 percent of the total hours of instruction, while radio and television constituted 24 percent of all activities but only 2 percent of the total instructional hours. (See Table 2.)

As in 1967-68, medical schools were the most frequent sponsor, presenting 315 activities representing 3,756.5 hours of instruction and accounting for almost 51 percent of the total number of activities and 49 percent of all hours of instruction. In 1959-60 a total of 104 sponsors reported continuing medical education activities to the Committee on Continuing Medical Education; in 1968-69

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	CRMP Area*	Activities		Hours		Number of Physicians In CRMP Area	
		No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
TABLE 1.—Continuing Medical Education Activities—Summary by Geographical Location (September 1, 1968-August 31, 1969)	I	191	30.8	2,260	29.3	8,547	24.7
	II	25	4.0	332.5	4.3	1,908	5.5
	III	88	14.2	701.5	9.1	4,823	13.9
	IV	148	23.9	1,697	22.0	2,365	6.8†
	V	118	19.0	1,796.5	23.0	14,398	41.6†
	VI	13	2.1	264.5	3.4	1,728	5.0
	VII	22	3.5	448	5.8	2,782	8.0
	VIII	15	2.4	203	2.6	2,092	6.0
	Totals	620	100.0‡	7,703	100.0‡	38,643	100.0‡

*CRMP designations reflect only the location where an activity was presented, and are not to be confused with sponsorship.

†Physician figures are compiled on the basis of county figures. CRMP Areas IV and V overlap in Los Angeles County, but this chart correlates CRMP Area V with Los Angeles County.

‡Percentages may not equal 100 because figures were rounded to the nearest tenth.

CRMP Area I: Del Norte, Siskiyou, Humboldt, Trinity, Shasta, Tehama, Glenn, Colusa, Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma, Napa, Marin, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Francisco.

CRMP Area II: Modoc, Lassen, Plumas, Butte, Sierra, Sutter, Yuba, Nevada, Placer, Yolo, Solano, Sacramento, El Dorado, Amador, Alpine.

CRMP Area III: San Joaquin, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Stanislaus, Merced, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey.

CRMP Area IV: Madera, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Tulare, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and part of Los Angeles, Ventura.

CRMP Area V: Major portion of Los Angeles County.

CRMP Area VI: Mono, Inyo, San Bernardino, Riverside.

CRMP Area VII: San Diego, Imperial.

CRMP Area VIII: Orange.

TABLE 2.—Continuing Medical Education Activities—Type of Presentation (September 1, 1968 - August 31, 1969)

CRMP Area	Meetings and Courses				Grand Rounds				Radio and TV*			
	Activities		Hours		Activities		Hours		Activities		Hours	
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
I	139	31.4	1,902.0	32.9	5	17.2	311	17.6	47	31.5	47	31.5
II	25	5.7	332.5	5.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
III	53	12.0	545.5	9.4	3	10.3	124	7.0	32	21.5	32	21.5
IV	66	14.9	861.0	14.9	12	41.4	766	43.3	70	47.0	70	47.0
V	114	25.8	1,506.5	26.0	4	13.8	290	16.4	0	0	0	0
VI	13	2.9	264.5	4.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VII	19	4.3	274.0	4.7	3	10.3	174	9.8	0	0	0	0
VIII	13	2.9	99.0	1.7	2	6.8	104	5.9	0	0	0	0
Totals	442	100.0	5,785.0	100.0	29	100.0	1,769	100.0	49	100.0	49	100.0

*Radio and television programs are included in the CRMP Area from which the broadcast emanated although coverage was over a larger area.

the total had risen to 139 sponsors. This 25 percent increase is mainly accounted for by an increase from 35 to 55 in the number of specialty societies reporting activities and from 8 to 21 of "other" sponsors, the category including California Regional Medical Programs, California Medical Association, county medical societies and research foundations. Where two or more organizations share sponsorship and responsibility for an activity, the primary sponsor is identified as the one that supplied program information. In some instances an activity was entirely planned by a medical school, but was sponsored by a specialty society or "other" sponsor. Likewise, medical school faculty are frequent participants in activities sponsored by groups other than medical schools (Tables 3 and 4).

The two medical schools presenting the largest number of activities, UCSF and UCLA, tended to have activities of shorter duration than those of USC and Stanford, which offered fewer activities.

The specialties in which the most continuing medical education activities were provided were Medicine (211 activities with 3,060.5 hours of instruction) followed by Surgery (106 activities with 1,272.5 hours of instruction). Five categories, Medicine, Surgery, Psychiatry, Pediatrics and General Practice, accounted for 80 percent of all activities and 85 percent of the total hours of instruction in the state. (Table 5.) It is of course possible for physicians to attend activities other than those in their specialty. It was noted in the summary's detailed report of surgical sub-specialties and selected categories [in a table included in the pub-

	<i>Sponsors</i>	<i>Number of Activities</i>	<i>Percent of Activities</i>	<i>Number of Hours</i>	<i>Percent of Hours</i>
TABLE 3.—Continuing Medical Education—Sponsorship of Activities (September 1, 1968 - August 31, 1969)	Hospitals (32)*	89	14.4	943.0	12.2
	Medical Schools (8)	315	50.8	3,756.5	48.7
	Specialty Societies (55)	74	11.9	1,071.0	13.9
	Voluntary Health Agencies (23)	30	4.8	266.0	3.5
	Other† (21)	112	18.1	1,666.5	21.6
	Totals	620	100.0	7,703.0	100.0

*Number of sponsors reporting activities.

†Includes California Regional Medical Programs, California Medical Association, County Medical Societies and Research Foundations.

	<i>Medical Schools</i>	<i>Number of Activities</i>	<i>Percent of Total</i>	<i>Number of Hours</i>	<i>Percent of Total</i>
TABLE 4.—Continuing Medical Education Activities in Medical Schools in Comparison with Total Continuing Medical Education Activities (September 1, 1968 - August 31, 1969)	Loma Linda University	2	.6	65.0	1.7
	Stanford University	11	3.5	225.5	6.0
	University of California, Davis	1	.3	56.0	1.5
	University of California, Irvine	3	1.0	109.0	2.9
	University of California, Los Angeles	103	32.7	812.5	21.6
	University of California, San Diego	3	1.0	137.0	3.6
	University of California, San Francisco	150	47.6	1,506.0	40.1
	University of Southern California	42	13.3	845.5	22.5
	Totals	315	100.0	3,756.5	100.0

	<i>Specialties and Selected Categories</i>	<i>Number of Activities</i>	<i>Percent of Activities</i>	<i>Number of Hours</i>	<i>Percent of Hours</i>
TABLE 5.—Continuing Medical Education Activities by Specialties and Selected Categories Listed in Order by Number of Hours (September 1, 1968 - August 31, 1969)	Medicine	211	34.0	3,060.5	39.7
	Surgery	106	17.1	1,272.5	16.5
	Psychiatry	63	10.2	850.5	11.0
	Pediatrics	54	8.7	785.5	10.2
	General Practice	63	10.2	582.5	7.6
	Mental Retardation	8	1.3	301.5	3.9
	Obstetrics and Gynecology	19	3.1	218.0	2.8
	Radiology	15	2.4	156.5	2.0
	Cancer	33	5.3	118.5	1.5
	Basic Sciences	9	1.4	114.0	1.5
	Business Aspects of Medical Practice	9	1.4	62.5	.8
	Adolescent Medicine	11	1.8	60.5	.8
	Industrial, Occupational and Environmental Medicine	8	1.3	51.5	.7
	Alcoholism and Drug Use	5	.8	26.0	.3
	Aviation Medicine	2	.3	25.5	.3
	Social and Community Medicine	4	.6	17.0	.2
	Totals	620	100.0	7,703.0	100.0

lished summary, but not shown here] that only two continuing medical education activities on the subject of trauma were offered during the 1968-69 year. However, instruction in this subject was given in some of the General Surgery and General Practice courses. The CMA's Bureau of Research and Planning on behalf of the Committee on Continuing Medical Education is currently conducting a census of continuing medical education. The results, which should be published sometime next year, will give long awaited information as to how many and what specialties of physicians avail themselves of what types of educational opportunities afforded them.

It should be noted that the categorization of some courses into specialties and selected categories is difficult. Efforts continue, however, to

develop a method to better standardize the reporting of activity content and hours.

With the advent of the American Medical Association's accreditation of continuing medical education sponsors, and with similar accreditation by CMA on the horizon, plus the CMA's Certificate in Continuing Medical Education, it becomes increasingly important for prospective sponsors to be accurately informed on an activity's content and number of instructional hours. In addition to publishing the Annual Summary of Continuing Medical Education in California and listing the activities monthly in the "Continuing Medical Education Activities" section of CALIFORNIA MEDICINE and quarterly in the *Medical Dates Bulletin*, the CMA currently has an information office that

centralizes information on all activities statewide and provides a clearinghouse service for sponsors. This office has an electrofile which stores, and makes available for immediate retrieval, data projected ahead three to five years on all California and Hawaii educational activities and nationwide major medical meetings. This information is available to any program sponsor. Sponsors then can avoid duplication of programs, choose a more appropriate date, and perhaps even plan to utilize speakers coming from a distance at a time near that of their own program.

The Continuing Medical Education Office is eager to be of assistance in providing information in as great detail as is available to assist sponsors

in their planning. To make available a comprehensive clearinghouse to all program purveyors, the cooperation of each is essential. Thus, each sponsor is urged to make plans as far in advance as possible and to send his tentative and final information immediately and regularly to the Continuing Medical Education Office (address below).

The 1968-69 Annual Summary was funded through a grant from the California Regional Medical Programs. Copies of the summary as well as more detailed breakdowns by specific activities are available on request to the Committee on Continuing Medical Education, California Medical Association, 693 Sutter Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102.

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